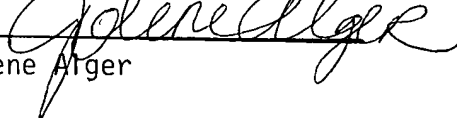


Abstract of the Disclosure

An intravascular catheter having a shaft, at least a portion of which includes a braid reinforcement with an axial wire or fiber disposed between the helical members that form the braid. The axial member prevents the elongation of the shaft of the catheter thereby maintaining one-to-one correspondence in axial manipulation of the catheter, even when the shaft is placed in tension. By positioning the axial member between the helical members, the axial member does not create a protrusion and does not become fixed to any adjacent polymer layer. Thus, the axial member limits axial strain of the catheter, without creating the undesirable effects of friction caused by an axial protrusion and without creating the undesirable effects of limited flexure caused by an adjacent polymer layer becoming fixed to the axial member.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 110: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service. "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail Mailing label number of:
EL531630209US

in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
on this 19th day of January 2000
Compton, Seager & Tufts, LLC

By: 
Jolene Alger